



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Text File Report

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Controlling Body: Committee of the
Whole

Sponsors: Larry Phillips, Dow Constantine

AN ORDINANCE approving membership in the Chicago Climate Exchange; authorizing the executive to execute the appropriate documents to become a member of the Chicago Climate Exchange; and establishing and stating the purpose of a new fund entitled Climate Exchange Fund; amending Ordinance 12076, Section 9, as amended and K.C.C. 4.08.015, as amended, and adding a new section to K.C.C. chapter 4.08.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

1. There is a consensus among the world's leading scientists that global warming pollution by humans is one of the world's most significant problems today.
2. King County recognized global warming and related energy pollution problems at an early stage, and over the past fifteen years has actively implemented policies to foster a clean fuel economy, which experts agree is a critical element to reducing global warming pollution caused by humans.
3. In September 1988, the King County council proposed Ordinance 88-662 with the intent of creating an office of science and technology planning to address the issues of ozone depletion and global warming.
4. In 2002 the King County executive signed Executive Order PHL 10-1(AEO), by which the executive created and led a countywide initiative to inventory and reduce global warming pollution caused by greenhouse gas emissions ("carbon" or "carbon equivalents").
5. Council subsequently adopted Motion 11364 which approved participation in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and supported the executive's development of an action plan to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and targeted air pollutants from King County operations.
6. In furtherance of this legislative implementation, an Air Quality Steering Team was established to provide the organizational capacity for inventorying and reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming pollution.
7. As a result of the Air Quality Steering Team's important work, the county has created one of the most comprehensive emissions inventories ("carbon inventory") of any local government in the United States and has empowered the county to fully understand its carbon liabilities and marketable carbon assets ("carbon credits").
8. The preceding work to develop a best-practice carbon inventory has built critical organizational expertise and resources in the departments of King County for future emissions reduction planning and sale of carbon credits.
9. The Rio Treaty, established on May 9, 1992, and entered into force in 1994, set a long-term objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human-caused climate change, and represented an important first step toward creating a framework for emissions trading.
10. In 2003 the Lieberman-McCain Climate Stewardship Act (United States Senate Bill 139) has proposed federal limits on carbon emissions and a system that allows for trading carbon credits (a "carbon market").
11. In February 2005, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force, officially creating a market for the trading of emissions by over one hundred forty signatory countries and regional organizations, which represent sixty-two percent of global emissions.
12. On June 22, 2005 the United States Senate stated in an amendment to its version of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, "It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should enact a comprehensive and effective national program of mandatory,

transit operations and forest sequestration, and CCX offers the opportunity for King County to shape future rules on how to calculate emissions and credits from those operations.

25. Participants in the CCX are gaining valuable experience in carbon inventories, limits and credits that will likely help shape expected federal laws and regulations.

26. The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), a network of regional governments that sponsors the Cities for Climate Protection, in which King County is a member by order of the same council Motion 13364, has entered a formal partnership with CCX to facilitate membership of additional local governments.

27. On June 13, 2005, the United States Conference of Mayors passed a unanimous resolution that recognized "the leadership of the cities that have joined the Chicago Climate Exchange a